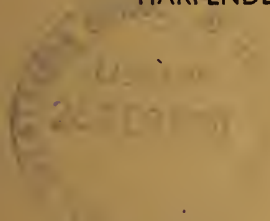


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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

JOHN SNOWDON, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1968

~~Histon~~
~~Didsbury~~
~~Mort~~
~~Peri~~

Bills
C. 1007

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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1968

Chairman : Cllr. C.W. Curl, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Cllr. E. Ackroyd.

Cllr. W.E. Amos.	Cllr. B.G. McGuinness.
Cllr. A.W. Bath.	Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller, M.B., M.R.C.P.
Cllr. K.H. Bond, M.C.	Cllr. D.R. Sampson.
Cllr. J.H.F. Fryd, C.A.	Cllr. B. Thornton-Jones.
Cllr. I.J. Fulton.	Cllr. J.B.A. Willis.
Cllr. A.W. Munt.	Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.
Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.	

Public Health Committee

Chairman : Cllr. Mrs. W.M.M. Wyborn.

Cllr. W.E. Amos.	Cllr. Mrs. P.W. Jennery.
Cllr. A.W. Bath.	Cllr. B.G. McGuinness.
Cllr. J.H.F. Fryd.	Cllr. Dr. A.B. Miller.
Cllr. I.J. Fulton.	Cllr. J.B.A. Willis.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

1968

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.
P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health.
J. Snowdon, M.A.P.H.I.	Senior Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.
G.T. Chaplin, M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Housing Manager.
P.D. Wright.	Student Public Health Inspector.
R. Sturman.	Housing Assistant.
Miss M. Saunders.	Typist.
E.A.C. Faram.	Rodent Operative. (Retired October 1968).
E. Dudley.	Rodent Operative. (Appointed October 1968).

Divisional Health Office,
Bleak House,
Catherine Street,
St. Albans,
Herts.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of Harpenden for the year 1968.

I am happy, as in previous years, to be able to report that the general health of the area remains good. The crude death rate rose slightly to 9.3 in 1968 from 8.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1967. The comparable death rate, which is corrected to allow for the population structure of the area as compared with the rest of the country, was 11.0 compared with the rate of 11.9 for the whole of England and Wales. As in previous years, the major causes of death were the degenerative and the malignant diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease which was the largest single cause of death.

There was a further fall in the birth rate from 17.0 live births per 1,000 population in 1967 to 15.9 in 1968. This is in line with the national trend and is, no doubt, associated with the availability of more effective forms of contraception.

During the summer a large scale campaign to vaccinate the age group 4 - 7 years against measles was undertaken and at the time of writing it appears that this has been successful in substantially reducing the incidence of the disease. Fuller details will be given in my next annual report.

As in previous years, my thanks are due to the many people, both within the Public Health Department and in other agencies, without whose co-operation the work of the Department would have been impossible. It is worth referring in this connection to the fact that, in addition to being the District Council's Medical Officer of Health I am also, as the County Councils Divisional Medical Officer for the St. Albans Division, responsible for the day to day administration locally of the County's Health and Welfare Services. This has considerable advantages in that many problems, which concern for example the housing department, or the public health inspectorate are also well known to the county councils nursing, health visiting or social work services and my dual role enables me to act as co-ordinator of the various services involved. For this purpose, case conferences are held each quarter, at which representatives of the various departments concerned meet under my chairmanship to discuss common problems and co-ordinate a common approach to them.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the interest you have taken in the work of the Department throughout the year and for all the help and consideration you have given to myself and my staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

CARL BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	22,580
Area in Acres	3,157
Number of Inhabited houses on the rate books	
Dwelling Houses (including caravans)	7,550
Shops with living accommodation	56
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	25
Rateable Value	£1,312,227
Sum represented by a penny rate	£5,240

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number	358
Rate per 1,000 population	15.9

Illegitimate Live Births

Number	15
Rate percent of total live births	4.2

Stillbirths

Number	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	2.8

<u>Total Live and Stillbirths</u>	359
-----------------------------------	-----

Infant Deaths (death under one year)

Number	4
Rate per 1,000 live births	11.2

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	11.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	8.75
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	66.7

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live births	11.2

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Number

3

Rate per 1,000 total live births

8.4

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)

4

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths

11.1

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

-

Deaths

Number of deaths

210

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population

9.3

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied 'Comparability Factors' to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Crude Birth Rate Adjusted Birth Rate Crude Death Rate Adjusted Death Rate

15.9

15.9

9.3

11.0

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate</u>	<u>Crude Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
1948	9.3	18.1	11.7
1949	10.4	15.7	17.5
1950	9.3	13.3	25.5
1951	11.7	13.0	16.0
1952	9.1	12.8	42.5
1953	10.7	13.8	29.6
1954	3.4	14.6	4.6
1955	10.5	15.5	12.7
1956	10.5	16.1	7.9
1957	10.1	16.0	19.5
1958	10.6	19.0	25.5
1959	9.3	19.8	17.6
1960	9.2	20.7	27.8
1961	8.8	16.1	27.1
1962	9.4	18.1	14.5
1963	9.9	17.3	14.6
1964	8.5	19.0	5.2
1965	9.4	17.2	11.1
1966	9.2	18.2	-
1967	8.7	17.0	16.0
1968	9.3	15.9	11.2

<u>Year</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rate</u>
1961	6.7	23.6
1962	17.1	25.7
1963	17.2	28.7
1964	12.8	17.9
1965	16.4	24.7
1966	10.2	10.2
1967	5.0	11.0
1968	2.8	11.1

Causes of Death :

A new system of classification has been introduced by the Registrar General and is used this year for the first time so that these statistics are not directly comparable with those for previous years.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1. Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	1
2. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
3. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	1
4. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	4	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	6
6. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	3
7. Leukaemia	1	-
8. Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	15	7
9. Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	1
10. Diabetes Mellitus	1	-
11. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
12. Hypertensive Disease	5	6
13. Ischaemic Heart Disease	34	21
14. Other forms of Heart Disease	3	4
15. Cerebrovascular Disease	13	19
16. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5
17. Pneumonia	-	7
18. Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	1
19. Asthma	1	1
20. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
21. Peptic Ulcer	2	-
22. Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2
23. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
24. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
25. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	2
26. Congenital Anomalies	1	1
27. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	-	1
28. Other Causes of Peri-natal Mortality	1	1
29. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
30. All Other Accidents	4	2
31. Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	2	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108	102
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Vital Statistics - 1968 - England and Wales.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births.

/ Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	16.9
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	14.0

Deaths.

All causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.9
* Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	18.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.2
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	12.4
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	25.0
* Lowest ever recorded in this country.	

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low number from which local rates are calculated one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer - 1968 :

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year are as follows :-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate per million population</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1,094	364	1,458	46	15	30
Other Tuberculosis	406	227	633	17	9	13
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	23,896	4,930	28,826	1,011	197	593
Other Cancer	37,137	46,580	83,717	1,572	1,866	1,723

Commentary on Vital Statistics.

Births :

There were 358 live births in the area during 1968 giving a birth rate of 15.9 per thousand. This compares with 374 births in 1967, a birth rate of 17.0 per thousand. In 1964 the birth rate was the highest for 4 years whereas in 1965 the birth rate dropped below the national birth rate of 18.0. There was 1 stillbirth in 1968, giving a stillbirth rate of 2.8 compared with 2 stillbirths and a stillbirth rate of 5.0 in 1967. There were 4 infants who died under the age of 1 year, giving an infant mortality rate of 11.2. Deaths of these children are shown in the following table.

/ In 1966 the birth rate was higher than the national rate, whilst in 1967 it dropped to a fraction below the national rate.

Table 1.

Analysis of Infant Mortality.

Causes of Death	Under 1 Week	Under 2 Weeks	Under 3 Weeks	Under 4 Weeks	TOTAL Under 1 Month	Under 3 Months	Under 6 Months	Under 9 Months	Under 12 Months	TOTAL Under 1 Year
Prematurity	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Other Causes	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4

Deaths :

210 people of all ages died in the Urban District during 1968 giving a crude death rate of 9.3 and a standardised death rate of 11.0. This is to be compared with a crude death rate of 8.7 in 1967.

Degenerative disease of the heart and arteries was the commonest cause of death, accounting for more than half the total number of deaths during the year. Deaths from this cause and from certain forms of cancer, particularly lung cancer, are on the increase, whilst the infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs.

The degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions but, unfortunately, like so much good advice, it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dietary control to avoid overweight, the taking of regular exercise and the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted, have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

Cancers :

44 people died of cancers, 23 men and 21 women. The ages of death for both men and women for the various sites of the cancers, compiled from local records, are shown in Table 2 following :-

Table 2 :

<u>Site</u>		<u>Under</u> <u>34</u>	<u>35-45</u>	<u>45-55</u>	<u>55-65</u>	<u>65-75</u>	<u>75 +</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach	Male	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Lung	Male	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
	Female	-	-	1	1	2	-	4
Breast	Female	-	1	-	4	1	-	6
Bladder	Male	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Ovary	Female	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Prostate	Male	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Uterus-Cervix	Female	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Leukaemia	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Others	Male	-	-	2	4	2	2	10
	Female	-	1	1	-	1	1	4

There were eight deaths from cancer of the lung during 1968 which is a fifty percent drop in the number reported in 1967. Despite fluctuations in the local figures the national figure has risen inexorably year by year. Between 1956 and 1968 the annual number of deaths from this cause rose from 18,185 to 28,826 which is a rise from 3 5% to almost 5% of the total number of deaths. The habit of cigarette smoking is responsible for the vast majority of these deaths as well as contributing in large measure to the increasing mortality from coronary artery disease.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

	<u>No. of Cases</u>
Scarlet Fever	5
Measles	53
Infective Hepatitis	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Tuberculosis (other forms)	1
Anthrax	1

Tuberculosis :

During 1968 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Urban District :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -- 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -- 24 ..	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 -- 44 ..	-	1	-	-	-	1
45 -- 64 ..	2	-	1	-	3	-
65 years and over	1	-	-	-	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

During the year there were 4 respiratory (male) cases transferred in and 20 cases were removed from the register. The state of the Tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1968, was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
53	12	7	11	83

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics :

The County Council Child Welfare Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road every Wednesday afternoon, the Doctors being in attendance at each session and at Batford Junior School on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held at the Methodist Church Hall, Southdown Road every Friday afternoon, with the Doctor in attendance on the second and fourth Fridays.

The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy Clinics are held at 40, Luton Road, by appointment.

This arrangement is working very well. At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his helpful co-operation.

Hospitals :

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this hospital, and for this purpose the hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

Statistics :

Year Ended 31st December, 1968.

Bed Complement	Surgical and Medical	10	30
	Maternity	12	
	Geriatric	8	
Average daily number of occupied beds			21.15
Admissions			719
Discharges			669
Deaths			37
Number of Births	Live	334	334
	Stillbirths	-	
	Deaths	-	

	<u>New Patients</u>	<u>Attendances</u>
Physiotherapy Dept:	386	1,223
Casualty Department:	1,033	1,035
Specialist Consultations:	902	2,123
Out-patients treated by General Practitioners:	207	207

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixteenth report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department for the year 1968.

Although in this affluent age people's living standards have risen very considerably since the end of the war, complaints are still received which require immediate attention and which can affect a number of private residents. Solutions are not always easy to find and effective action to minimise public nuisances invariably takes time.

The public, more and more, quite rightly demand improved standards, and I think it can be claimed, with every justification, that in the public health sphere considerable improvements are always being achieved.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for the keen interest taken in the work of the Department and for their friendly and close support at all times.

In addition, I must thank the members of my staff for their assistance in preparing the statistical information for the Report and for their help in running the Department.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	Primary Inspections	261
	Re-visits	492
	Visits to :- Houses	561
	Moveable Dwellings	15
	Business Premises	135
	Other Premises	42
	Visits re :- Repairs	246
	Drainage	141
	Infectious Diseases	101
	Disinfestations	35
	Smell Nuisances	75
	Other Nuisances	103
Housing Acts		13
Rent Acts		7
Rodent Control (By Rodent Operative)		1,473
Rodent Control (By P.H.I.)		25
Factories Act		160
Petroleum Acts		79
Animal Boarding Establishments Act		1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act		244
Food Hygiene		257
	Visits to :- Bakers and Confectioners	37
	Butchers	20
	Cafes and Canteens	88
	Chemists	3
	Dairies	1
	Fish Shops	14
	General Stores & Grocers	55
	Greengrocers	13
	Licensed Premises	26

3,012

GENERAL SANITATION

Complaints :

During the year 373 complaints of all types were received and the majority were perfectly straight-forward matters which could be successfully resolved without difficulty. For example, 247 complaints were regarding infestations by rats and mice and 41 concerned wasps' nests.

The number of complaints from occupiers of tenanted property continues to be very small indeed and it is more usual for complaints of a general nature to be made which affect more than one person. This applies particularly to noise complaints and complaints of smoke nuisance.

It is fortunate that no evidence has been found of multi-occupation of dwelling houses where conditions give rise to concern.

Water Supply :

The water supply for the whole area is supplied by a private undertaking, the Colne Valley Water Company, whose headquarters are at Watford.

The supply of water, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, is obtained from two boreholes, one in Shakespeare Road and one at East Hyde, which is just outside the District. The raw supply at both boreholes is chlorinated as a precautionary measure and very few complaints are received as to taste or contamination. During the year work was continued on an underground storage reservoir of three million gallons capacity, which will safeguard the water requirements for a rapidly expanding area.

Samples taken during the year were as follows :-

Bacteriological - main supply 51

Results in all cases were satisfactory. The degree of hardness is in the region of 25 and is such that no difficulties arise from plumbo-solvent action. Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply, direct to the house.

Sewerage :

The majority of properties in the district enjoy main drainage facilities and the sewage is treated at one main sewage works under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

1968 saw the completion of large scale extension and improvement works to the sewage treatment plant which included a sludge pressing unit and additional settlement tanks and filters. The works are now adequate to cater for the demands of a rapidly increasing District and the effluent should readily be kept within the limits prescribed by the River Authorities.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the sewage works was 402,783,710 gallons compared with 353,703,000 gallons in 1967 and 294,542,000 gallons five years ago.

Drainage and Cesspools :

141 visits were made for the purpose of testing and checking existing drainage systems, including cesspools.

There are 32 cesspools in use which serve scattered small groups or single properties and although it is hoped that it may be possible to connect some of those properties to main drainage in due course, the majority will remain out of reach of the public sewers for some time. The arrangement whereby the St. Albans Rural District Council empty cesspools in the area were continued and during the year 47 emptyings were carried out. The Council bear the cost of one emptying of a cesspool each year for premises not within reach of the Council's sewers.

Common Lodging Houses :

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Public Swimming Bath :

The Council's open air swimming pool in Rothamsted Park, which was opened in 1960, continues to be an outstanding amenity. The use made of the pool increases every year and by constant and adequate supervision no conditions detrimental to public health arose. The water, which circulates continuously, is treated by pressure sand filters followed by break-point chlorination together with the requisite chemical dosing to maintain pH at the correct level. The installation of an electric heating system to maintain the water at about 68°F. has been very worthwhile.

Twice daily tests to ascertain the pH, free, residual and combined chlorine are carried out at the pool and, in addition, 72 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results in each case.

Silver Cup Pond :

This pond has been used for many years for children to sail model boats. Unfortunately, however, during warm weather young children are apt to use the pond more as a children's bathing pool. This procedure could undoubtedly be dangerous to their health and, despite regular dosing with chlorinating agents, the water in the pond cannot be maintained at all times in an entirely satisfactory condition.

The number of small children in and around the pond on a fine weekend has to be seen to be believed and it is difficult to prevent injury from stones, broken glass

Such ponds may be a great attraction to small children but from a public health point of view they present numerous problems.

Moveable Dwellings :

There are two caravan sites in the district; one is privately owned and licensed for sixteen caravans and the other is owned by the Council and provides accommodation for twelve caravans. Both sites are in situations where they do not impair local amenities and they do help to satisfy a local demand.

Each is provided with proper roadways, flush toilets, chemical closet disposal units, laundry facilities and electricity supplies to each caravan.

Notices :

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without need for instituting legal proceedings.

* Informal notices served during the year	13
Informal notices complied with by owners during the year	17
Formal notices served during the year	Nil
Formal notices complied with by owners during the year	1

‡ Including notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Rodent Control :

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupiers of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

247 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with and treatment was carried out at 416 properties. For this purpose, 1,473 visits were made and 68 dead rats were found.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative for this work. Mr. E.A.C. Faram retired from this post in October and Mr. E. Dudley was appointed as his successor.

Council Properties :

Careful supervision of the Council's Depots and Stores was maintained during the year and any infestations of the Sewage works or refuse tip was dealt with by the Manager and the Rodent Operative. Now that tipping has been virtually completed the problems of rodent control are no longer serious but regular check surveys are still carried out.

Wasps Nests :

41 complaints were received of wasps' nests and these were treated by the Rodent Operative.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act :-

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	57	147	5	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworker's premises):	20	13	3	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	78	160	8	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	8	8	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Home Work - Section 133.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S.133.</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.</u>
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Wearing apparel

Making etc. Cleaning and Washing.	8	Nil	Nil
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All other types of home work	Nil	Nil	Nil
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<u>Total :</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
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All are employed by firms outside the
district

Home Work - Section 134.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</u>	<u>Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
All types of homework	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Total :</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Registration :

At the beginning of the year, 241 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act and, of these, 229 were known to comply fully with all the requirements.

During the year 3 new registrations were made but one registration lapsed, leaving a total of 243 registered premises at the end of 1968. In general, the public are still unaware of the obligation to register premises prior to starting a new business or employing people to work for them. This means that the appointed inspectors have to 'follow up' any changes of occupancy, changes of use or the opening of new premises to see whether or not registration is necessary. This, in itself, has proved to be a very difficult task in this particular area. There are many cases where businesses are established with no employees but within a few weeks commence to employ without applying for registration, or where registered premises change hands several times between inspections.

Inspections :

All registered premises have received an initial inspection and most have had at least one subsequent general inspection. Where premises are normally inspected at relatively frequent intervals for some other purpose (e.g. food premises) the inspector automatically looks for contraventions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act at the same time. In general, an attempt is made to inspect all other premises at least once within a two year cycle although, in practice, pressure of other work does delay these inspections on occasions. When a general inspection is made the whole premises, whether large or small, are covered and comparison made with the full record completed on the initial inspection. Where any contraventions are found the inspector will point these out to the employer and will follow this up with a letter and subsequent inspections at short intervals until the contraventions are remedied.

Where it is known from experience that contraventions are likely, or conditions will otherwise deteriorate to a considerable extent, the interval between general inspections is reduced. Obviously, any complaint received or request from an employer for advice results in an immediate visit to the premises irrespective of the interval since the last general inspection was made.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act :

On initial inspection the most common contraventions continue to be the lack of first aid boxes and thermometers. In addition, there are still instances where no constant supply of running hot water is provided or not artificial lighting to water closets. By December 235 premises

were known to comply fully with all the requirements of the Act. There were very few instances where there has been any major difficulty in securing compliance and in no cases has it yet been necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure compliance with the general provisions of the Act.

Measurements taken in the premises receiving a general inspection have shown that the standards of lighting are reasonably adequate in all rooms in which people are required to work and no cases of excessive glare were found.

Accidents :

Seven accidents were reported all of which were non-fatal and were as follows :-

Amputation (Tips of fingers)	1
Cuts	4
Sprains	1
Dislocations	1

All four cuts occurred in food premises and were of a comparatively minor nature. It was felt that there was a possibility of some contravention of the Act in the case of the amputation and an investigation was made. No contravention of the Act was found.

The cases involving a sprain and dislocation were both caused by minor falls and no investigation was thought necessary.

In general, employers are more aware of their responsibilities to notify accidents now, but it seems probable that in spite of letters having been sent drawing employer's attention to this obligation, many still forget to notify an accident, although I have no evidence that this is so. Further statistical information on the administration of this Act is given below :-

Table A. Registration and General Inspections.

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. Registered in year</u>	<u>Total Registered at 31.12.68.</u>	<u>Premises Receiving General Inspections</u>
Offices	2	73	15
Retail Shops	1	152	31
Wholesalers etc.	-	-	-
Caterers etc.	-	18	3
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	243	49

Table B.

Number of Visits of all kinds (including general inspections)
to registered premises 244

Table C.

Analysis of Workplace of Persons Employed in
Registered Premises at end of Year

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons Employed</u>
Offices	537
Retail Shops	699
Wholesale Departments, warehouses	14
Catering Establishments open to the public	104
Canteens	10
Fuel Storage Depots	-
TOTAL	1,364
Total Males	515
Total Females	849

Table D.

Exemptions.

No applications for exemption certificates were received.

Table E.

Prosecutions.

No prosecutions were instituted.

Table F.

No. of Inspectors appointed - 2
No. of other staff employed - Nil

CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Meat Supply and Slaughtering Facilities :

No slaughterhouses have been used in the district since the war but adequate slaughtering facilities are available in surrounding districts. The demand from local butchers for such facilities is, however, very limited indeed and most retailers seem to rely on supplies of carcase meat from wholesale meat markets. A careful check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat, together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Arrangements are still in force whereby assistance in meat inspection duties would be given to the St. Albans Rural District Council should the necessity arise at any time.

The following meat and meat products were condemned during the year.

Ham and Bacon	84 lb.
Kidneys	14 lb.
Lard	2 lb.

Food Inspections :

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged in every case.

Frozen Foods	469 Pkts.
Oats	7 lb.
Sugar	2 Cwt.
Butter	28 lb.
Tinned Fruit	18 lb.

Poultry Inspection :

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Food Premises :

There are 146 food premises in the area which fall into the following general categories (in some cases there is more than one category in a single premises) :-

General Stores and Grocers	29
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	48
Bakers and Confectioners	26
Greengrocers	14
Butchers	12
Public houses, off licenses etc.	32
Chemists	7
Fish Shops	7

13 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages, preserved foods etc.

257 routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year with particular attention being paid to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food Complaints :

7 complaints were received regarding food sold from shops in the District during the year. Each case was fully investigated and, where appropriate, written warnings were issued. In one case legal action was taken to deal with a steak pie sold in a very mouldy condition and a fine of £25 0s. 0d. was imposed.

Ice Cream :

55 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

The trend towards the sale of 'soft' ice cream continues, particularly from mobile vehicles. Effective control of such vehicles continues to be exceedingly difficult since they mainly operate at weekends and holidays and are based outside the urban district.

42 visits were made to premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies :

There are in the District 17 registered distributors of milk and one registered dairy, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and only heat treated milk is now sold within the district.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963 :

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been taken during the year.

HOUSING

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year :

(a)	By the Local Authority	..	6
(b)	By private enterprise	.. ..	245
			<u>251</u>

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(i)	a.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	..	45
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	246
(ii)	a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.	.. ..	-
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	-
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	6
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	33

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	36
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..	..	-
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal notices			
(a)	By Owners	..	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	..	..	33
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal notices :			
(a)	By Owners	..	..	-
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	-

Housing Act, 1957 :

During the year 3 families were rehoused from properties in or adjoining Clearance Areas and 2 properties were demolished. Since the programme for dealing with sub-standard property was commenced in 1955, 112 houses have actually been demolished, 74 of these since 1964, when a start was made on clearing the Heath Road area.

Rent Act, 1957 :

1 application for the revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year but, following an objection from the Tenant, it was decided not to cancel the Certificate.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

During the year a further 6 units of accommodation were provided at Dark Lane.

The total number of housing units owned by the Council is as follows :-

Houses	677
Flats	269
Old Peoples' Dwellings	58
	<hr/>
	1,004
	<hr/>

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance of duties in connection with housing management :-

To Applicants	65
Maintenance	2,653
Administration	51
Tenancies	79

Summary of Housing Applicants.

<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Active List</u>	<u>Deferred List</u>	<u>Total</u>
Married Couples with children	98	46	144
Married Couples and Engaged Couples	55	37	92
Single Persons	29	10	39
Old Persons	69	-	69
	<u>251</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>344</u>

The total number of housing applicants continues to exceed 300, although not every applicant can be said to be in dire need of accommodation. So many young people who marry in their 'teens can only look to the Council for a decent home in which to live, since house purchase is completely beyond their means.

Limited progress has been made in dealing with the problem of under occupation of Council houses, although this is still a situation which is far from satisfactory. It is natural that some tenants are reluctant to give up their homes and the upheaval of moving, possibly to another area, is a big ordeal to be faced.

The system of allocating Council flats and houses solely on 'need' was continued successfully during the year and appears to be accepted by most applicants as being quite fair and reasonable.

During the year, in addition to the 6 new dwellings completed, a further 48 tenancies and 9 exchanges were arranged.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 28 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit and 79 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON

Senior Public Health
Inspector

